

Martinez	Pascrell	Smith (WA)
Mascara	Pastor	Snyder
Matsui	Payne	Spratt
McCarthy (MO)	Pelosi	Stabenow
McCarthy (NY)	Peterson (MN)	Stark
McGovern	Phelps	Stenholm
McIntyre	Pickett	Strickland
McKinney	Pomeroy	Stupak
McNulty	Price (NC)	Tanner
Meehan	Rahall	Tauscher
Meek (FL)	Rangel	Taylor (MS)
Meeks (NY)	Reyes	Thompson (CA)
Menendez	Rivers	Thurman
Millender-	Rodriguez	Tierney
McDonald	Roemer	Towns
Miller, George	Rothman	Turner
Minge	Roybal-Allard	Udall (CO)
Mink	Rush	Udall (NM)
Moakley	Sabo	Velazquez
Moore	Sanchez	Vento
Moran (VA)	Sanders	Visclosky
Murtha	Sandlin	Waters
Nadler	Sawyer	Watt (NC)
Napolitano	Schakowsky	Waxman
Neal	Scott	Weiner
Oberstar	Serrano	Wexler
Obey	Sherman	Weygand
Olver	Shows	Wise
Ortiz	Sisisky	Woolsey
Owens	Skelton	Wu
Pallone	Slaughter	Wynn

NOT VOTING—8

Bilbray	Jefferson	Peterson (PA)
Deal	Lantos	Thompson (MS)
Ehrlich	McDermott	

□ 1246

Mr. CALLAHAN and Mr. SANFORD changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill (H.R. 2670) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SUNUNU). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kentucky?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF COMMERCE, JUSTICE, AND STATE, THE JUDICIARY, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2000

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 273 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2670.

□ 1248

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 2670) making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and

State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2000, and for other purposes, with Mr. HASTINGS of Washington in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SERRANO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. ROGERS).

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 12 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 2670, making appropriations for the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and related agencies for fiscal year 2000, provides funding for programs whose impact ranges from the safety of people in their homes, to the conduct of diplomacy around the world, to predicting the weather from satellites in outer space.

Mr. Chairman, this bill requires a very delicate balancing of needs and requirements, from ongoing activities and operations of the departments and regulatory agencies, to new areas of concern like preparing to respond to the threat of domestic terrorism or beefing up worldwide security for our embassies overseas, to special funding requirements like the decennial census.

This year, our capacity to respond to all of these needs is tempered by the fiscal restraint under which we are forced to operate. The 1997 budget act for 5 years imposed spending restraints in each of those 5 years, in other words, budget caps, spending caps, beyond which we cannot exceed. We all went home after we passed that Budget Act of 1997, most of us voted for it, both sides of the aisle, and we crowed about how we were saving America's fiscal integrity, and we did.

Mr. Chairman, the piper is at the door waiting to be paid for that party, and this bill represents the piper. This is a very, very austere bill. We are having to live with those budget caps and yet maintain some very, very critical agencies of this government, a little bit like as I told in the full committee, the old drunk back home that was arrested for setting his bed on fire at the rooming house where he lived, he came into court and the judge asked for his plea, and the old fellow said, "Well, your honor, I plead guilty to being drunk, but that doggone bed was on fire when I got in it." I am telling my colleagues that these budget caps are with us. We have to live with it. And we will.

We have had to carefully prioritize the funding in this bill and make very hard judgments about how to spend these limited resources.

The bill before the Committee today recommends a total of \$35.8 billion in discretionary funding that comes from three places: \$27.1 billion is general

purpose discretionary funds; \$4.2 billion is from the violent crime trust fund; and \$4.5 billion is emergency funding.

Leaving aside the Census, and oh, how I wish I could leave aside the Census, the bill is \$833 million below current spending and \$1.3 billion below the CBO's freeze level for fiscal year 2000.

For the Department of Justice, the bill provides \$18.1 billion, \$6 million above current spending. Increases are provided to maintain current operating levels of key law enforcement agencies. FBI, DEA, U.S. Attorneys, U.S. Marshals, U.S. Bureau of Prisons all are maintained at their current operating level. And we address a severe detention space shortfall in the Bureau of Prisons and the INS with this bill.

These increases are offset by a decrease in funding for COPS, from \$1.4 billion to \$268 million. I would point out that that \$268 million is the full authorization level set in law for the final year of the current program. That is all we are allowed by law to appropriate, and we did.

Local law enforcement and criminal justice block grants are maintained at or near last year's level, \$1.3 billion more than the administration requested. That assures that your State and local law enforcement agencies, your sheriffs, your police departments, continue to have the resources to fight crime in your districts.

The major program increases in the bill can be counted on two fingers, and they are both in Justice, \$100 million for 1,000 new border patrol agents, which the administration refused to request, and \$22 million for the Drug Enforcement Administration, equaling the administration's budget request.

I would point out and remind Members that the latest statistics on violent crime in the United States show that America is now suffering the least number of violent crimes since we have been keeping records. I would like to say to my subcommittee members over those years, and the full committee members, and the full Congress, a big thank you on behalf of the American people for staying with funding for these law agencies over these years to enable America now to have the lowest crime rate in recorded history.

For the Immigration and Naturalization Service, we continue to provide resources for the naturalization backlog reduction initiative, for the detention shortfall, and for the border patrol, and we continue to hope against hope that the most mismanaged and unmanageable agency of the Federal Government, the INS, will dig its way out of its continuing state of crisis. They cannot claim money as a cause, because we have given them all the money they can spend and more, to be frank. We have doubled this agency's budget in 5 years, tripled it in the last 10 years, and yet it manages now to perform crisis after crisis.

In the Department of Commerce, we provide full funding for the 2000 decennial census. All the money is there.